

Community spirit

Manas National Park Rhino Vision 2020 (IRV2020) has created a forum to involve the local community in conservation activities. Under the banner of IRV2020, WWF India, Manas National Park Authorities and other local organisations have collaborated to undertake many community initiatives, in conjunction with the release of rhino translocated to Manas from other parks in Assam.

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Manas National Park is a World Heritage Site situated in Bodoland Territorial Council (BTC), Assam, India. The diverse and fragile landscape of Manas is located on the northern belt of the river Brahmaputra. Local people fondly know it as *Jwngni Manas Hagrama*, Amar Garo, 'our beloved Manas', or *Jwngni Manas*, 'our game reserve'. Colloquially, Manas National Park Game Manas has more affinity with the local community, which dominates the villages around the border of the Park.

The 8km electric fence commissioned in 2009 does largely contain crop depredation, and the local community are happy and supportive. Community awareness has helped maintain the electric fence, with dozens of people volunteering their time to assist. Breakage inflicted by human actions has gone down by almost 50%, and theft of materials has been non-existent since community programmes began. There has been a visible decrease in the

A dairy unit in Madrijhar village



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